



# General Order

## Department of Fire & EMS

### G.O. 3-1-26

**Subject:** Scope of Practice and Unauthorized Equipment

**Date:** March 23, 2026

**Authority:** EMS Medical Director, Stephanie Kemp MD *SK*  
Assistant Chief, Eric Zaney *EJZ*

It has come to my attention that some EMS clinicians may be carrying or attempting to utilize medical equipment and perform procedures that are **not authorized for use on Carroll County Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (CCDFEMS) ground transport units**. This memorandum serves as a formal reminder of the regulatory and operational requirements governing EMS clinical practice within this jurisdiction.

All EMS clinicians practicing in the State of Maryland must provide care in accordance with the **Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services Providers** and the requirements established under the **Code of Maryland Regulations Title 30**. EMS providers function under the authority of an approved EMS Operational Program and its designated EMS Medical Director. Clinical care delivered outside of these protocols or outside the authority of the operational program is not permitted. Accordingly, the following requirements apply to all EMS clinicians operating within CCDFEMS:

- 1. EMS clinicians shall practice strictly within their authorized scope of practice** as defined by the Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services Providers and their Maryland certification level.
- 2. EMS clinicians shall not carry, deploy, or utilize medical equipment that has not been formally authorized by CCDFEMS and the EMS Medical Director.**
- 3. CCDFEMS ground transport units are not authorized to function as specialty care or critical care transport teams.** Equipment and procedures associated with specialty or critical care transport fall under separate regulatory frameworks and program approvals through the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems.
- 4. The presence or use of unauthorized medical equipment on EMS units presents patient safety risks and creates regulatory and legal liability for both the clinician and the department.**

**5. Prior training, experience, or roles held in other jurisdictions do not confer authorization within CCDFEMS.**

EMS clinicians often bring valuable experience from other EMS systems, hospital environments, military service, or specialty response teams. While this experience is recognized and valued, **prior training, certifications, or previous clinical roles do not authorize the independent introduction of procedures, medications, or equipment into the CCDFEMS field environment.**

All EMS clinicians operating within Carroll County function **under the authority of the CCDFEMS EMS Operational Program and the EMS Medical Director**, and must practice in accordance with:

- The Code of Maryland Regulations Title 30
- The Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services Providers
- CCDFEMS policies, procedures, and equipment authorizations

Procedures or equipment that may have been permitted in other jurisdictions or professional settings **are not automatically authorized within this operational program.**

**Authorization to perform clinical procedures or carry medical equipment within CCDFEMS is determined solely by the EMS Operational Program and the EMS Medical Director.** EMS clinicians may not independently expand their scope of practice, introduce procedures, or carry additional medical equipment based on prior training or previous roles without formal authorization through the CCDFEMS clinical governance process.

Operating outside the established scope of practice, protocols, or equipment authorization is a violation of departmental policy and may constitute a violation of Maryland EMS regulations. Any clinician found to be performing procedures outside their authorized scope or carrying unauthorized medical equipment may be subject to:

- Immediate removal from clinical duties
- Departmental disciplinary review
- Referral to the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems for potential licensure investigation

The expectation is straightforward: **EMS clinicians will follow the Maryland Medical Protocols, operate within their authorized scope of practice, and utilize only equipment approved for CCDFEMS EMS units.**

Questions regarding scope of practice, equipment authorization, or operational capabilities should be directed through the chain of command or to the Office of the EMS Medical Director.

Thank you for your continued commitment to providing safe, professional, and protocol-driven care to the residents and visitors of Carroll County.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Kemp, MD  
EMS Medical Director  
Carroll County Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services